Mechanism to keep watch on exports

3223. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a mechanism to keep a close watch on exports to the various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Government in the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the country's external trade and related matters such as export promotion measures, commercial relations with other countries, development and regulation of export oriented industries and commodities and state trading. The Territorial and Commodity Divisions within the Ministry monitor the export performance as a continuous process. The Ministry formulates and implements policies in the sphere of foreign trade, reflected in Export-Import Policy of the country. With a view to accelerating the country's transition to a globally oriented economy, the Ministry is stimulating India's export and facilitating the import of production-inputs required for sustaining increased industrial growth and export growth. The Exim Policy for the period 1997-2002 has also recently been announced.

Import of tea from India by various countries

3224. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries which are importing tea from India;

(b) whether Poland and some other countries propose to step up for tea import;

(c) if so, the details of orders placed by different countries to import Indian tea;

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) the estimated quantum of tea proposed to be exported to those countries during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Indian tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russia and CIS countries, U.K. Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, Arab Republic of Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia etc.

(b) to (d) Overall imports of tea by various importing countries depend upon their requirements and contracts for imports are entered into by the importing companies/organisations in different countries with their counterpart Indian exporters, details of which would be available only with the individual buyers/sellers. However, tea Board is in constant touch with various importing countries including Poland to promote import of Indian tea.

(e) The target proposed by the Tea Board for export of tea in the terminal year of 9th Plan viz 2001-2002 is 265 million kg.

Import of Gold Under EM Scheme

3225. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported by MMTC, under the EM Scheme since 1988;

(b) the details of the quantity of gold supplied to each exporter during that period;

(c) the number of exporters complied